



Families Connect, St Brigid's Primary, Toryglen, Glasgow

### What was your aim?

- To strengthen home, school and community learning opportunities.
- To engage parents/carers and children in the Families Connect programme which consists of an eight-week family learning programme focusing on development in the following areas; social and emotional development, literacy and language and numeracy and mathematics.
- For parents/carers to gain confidence in supporting their children's learning in a supportive, inclusive school environment that is conducive to further pathways for adult and family learning.
- To promote cultural diversity and provide an opportunity to integrate the different communities within our school

### Method

Consultation with parents/carers in the school resulted in parents requesting further learning opportunities for families. A coffee morning was organised for all P1 and P2 parents/carers; 29 attended and 16 registered for the eight-week Families Connect Programme. We prioritised P2 families and then balloted for the remaining spaces. As a result, 11 families attended the programme and five families are on the waiting list for the next session. Families Connect focuses on three key areas of learning, social and emotional development, literacy and language and numeracy and mathematics. The programme is delivered in a setting that is welcoming, safe and inclusive for families.



### Process Change

Family Learning is a key priority on our School Improvement Plan and Families Connect is one of the programmes/input being offered for families over the course of this academic session.

The programme was facilitated by a DHT and PT who are trained facilitators for the Families Connect Programme, promoting a whole school approach to the programme.

Evidence of improved attainment for family learning is being gathered via Save The Children's Tools for Schools platform. Which includes parents and teachers evaluations.

All parents completed the eight week programme and shared very positive feedback about their experiences. This included that they felt more confident in helping their child with their homework, have built stronger relationships with the staff involved and have established friendships with other parents/carers as a result of the programme.



### Achievements



- ☐ Parents report increased confidence in helping their child learn in literacy and numeracy.
- ☐ EAL families completed the FC programme with the support of their peers and reported that it had a positive impact on their English speaking/understanding.
- ☐ Families report an improved home-school relationship.
- ☐ Parents and children report new friendships have been formed which have continued at the school gate and beyond.
- ☐ Parents are volunteering for other Family Learning programmes within the school.
- ☐ Families are using the FC resources at home to support health and well being within the home, school and community.

### Key Learning Points

#### LEADERSHIP

- ☐ Important to have two trained facilitators in Families Connect to ensure promotion, sign up and communication between teaching staff and families is effective and inclusive for families. Protected time for facilitators for the organisation of resources, purchase of food and completion of Tools for School is required to ensure a standardised programme is delivered.

#### PARTNERSHIP WORKING

#### LIMITATIONS

- ☐ School budget is required to purchase some materials and food for the delivery of the programme. Materials are in English with translators required for some EAL families.



### Results



- ☐ Whole school approach to the Families Connect programme with parents now accessing further family learning programmes within the school and community.
- ☐ 11 parents signed up for the eight week programme all 11 attended weekly and completed the programme resulting in families celebrating with an away day from school.
- ☐ One parent has progressed to obtaining a job in childcare stating that the Families Connect programme helped with her confidence, self-esteem and developing skills that she could utilise in her new role.
- ☐ Friendships have been formed with families who attended the programme with the group regularly being seen chatting at the school gate. When one parent had another baby shortly after the course finished, all of the other parents/carers were seen interacting with her, congratulating her and cuddling the baby.

### Conclusion



Participant Quotes in conclusion:

- ☐ "Great bonding with my son. It's called Families Connect and that's what it did – it helped me connect more with him. It's made me a better parent – you think you know everything about being a parent but then you realise you don't. This has really helped!"
- ☐ "I really loved this programme. Lots of laughter & fun together...warm up games, connection with families, quality time with your kid, friendly environment, everything was superb & mind blowing. Special thanks to Mrs W and Mrs S for perfectly done all sessions."
- ☐ "I have really enjoyed the course. I took 8 days annual leave to be able to come & I'll have to go back to work next week. I've noticed minute changes that have made a really big impact at home."
- ☐ "It's been so joyful coming here. I have always been close to my daughter but I think we're even closer now. I won't know what to do with my Wednesdays now."
- ☐ "In China, the culture is very different & parents work all the time so they don't get the chance to come into school and do this type of thing. It has been so lovely. My boy really enjoys coming too. It is great for me to practise my listening. I'm learning about the differences in Glasgow humour and Chinese humour."
- ☐ "It's been great for me to practise my English."
- ☐ "It's been good to meet other parents. I've tried to include reading at other times – not just at bedtime. I have been doing a story instead of always putting the T.V. on."
- ☐ "I was a bit wary at first as I thought it was a parenting class & I didn't feel I needed that but it was so much more! I really realised the importance of reading with my daughter."
- ☐ "I've really tried not to be on my phone in the house as much and give the kids my attention instead. My daughter has loved it."

All parents talked about how much their children had enjoyed coming and that they jumped out of bed each Wednesday as they were so eager to come to the sessions.

### Scale / Spread



What next for your project?

- ☐ Support St Brigid's to deliver follow up Families Connect programmes
- ☐ St Brigid's will further support parents in family learning programmes and opportunities within the school.
- ☐ Contact will be made with community partners to support the Families Connect programme such as supermarkets for the provision of food.
- ☐ DHT will promote the Families Connect programme to other schools and attend training workshops to promote and support trainee education staff in the programme.